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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

## Death

Sanitizer linked to area death  
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# INPORT NEWS

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STREET: Narrow road

## Safety issue around parking on King St.

MARYVANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Attending a funeral can be a heart-breaking experience — one only made worse by returning to your car to find a ticket on the windshield.

Parking has long been an issue in the area surrounding St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, but it was a recent incident, when several funeralgoers were ticketed for parking infractions, that caused review of the street at a recent council meeting.

The tickets were issued on the east side of King St. between Kent and Adelaide Sts., where no parking is allowed.

City staff receive ongoing complaints about illegal parking in the area, including blocked driveways, parking in prohibited areas and corner restrictions. The church and nearby funeral homes have been notified of the parking issues.



DAVE JOHNSON/STAFF PHOTO

See KING St. page 2

Councillors opted Monday night to keep parking prohibited on the east side of King St., between Kent and Adelaide Sts. A request was made to review parking on the street after several cars were ticketed recently while the drivers attended a nearby funeral.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ KING ST.

## Funeral-goers complained about tickets

From page 1

Council discussed Monday whether it should allow parking on the east side of the King St. block in question.

"I think the status quo is the only safe way to stay," said Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele.

It's a no-parking zone and it's a no-parking zone for a reason. You can't have parking there," he said, adding it would be dangerous if parking were allowed, especially

with the heavy truck traffic in the area.

There have been several collisions and two fatalities nearby, he added.

Drivers have other options, he said, as parking is available on nearby side streets and there is a public parking lot not far away.

"Everyone needs to understand if you're going to park in front of a driveway, you're going to get a ticket," said Ward

2 Coun. Yvon Doucet.

While he sympathized with funeral attendees, he said there's sometimes a misconception that when attending such events people can "park wherever they want," which is not the case.

King St. resident Colleen Vanuyven said she's had her driveway blocked and, most recently, had cars park right in her driveway during a big funeral in the area.

"Some days it's really bad," she said, calling it "an unfortunate situation" because she sympathizes with those mourning a loved one.

Laurie Pietz, who also lives on King St., said she often has trouble pulling out of her driveway when church is in session or another event is going on.

She asked that parking continue to be prohibited "for the safety of my neighbourhood."

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott

received several complaints from the ticketed funeral attendees.

"I heard full volume how upset they were and I understand that," he said, "but I don't think we'd ever entertain having parking on that stretch of King St. it's just not going to be done."

He suggested the church have someone outside to help guide drivers toward areas where parkings available.

"It's up to the church to rectify the situation," he said.

Council approved a motion that parking remain prohibited on the King St. block.

St. Patrick's pastor Rev. Brian Bevan is expected to address the issue and provide a possible solution at the Tuesday, Nov. 12 meeting of council.

Maryanne.firth@summedia.ca  
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■ GREEN ENERGY

## West Lincoln, developer at odds over solar

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

West Lincoln's tough stance on green energy has shut out solar power, claims a furious Niagara green energy developer.

Albert Zappitelli of Umbrella Energy says his \$300,000 plan to install 100,000 watts of solar panels on a client's Moote Rd. barn is dead. He alleges it's a casualty of the township's battle against wind energy.

But township staff say aldermen have agreed not to give support to any feed-in tariff project — support Zappitelli said is critical to winning a green contract from the province. And they said Zappitelli's bid to speak Monday at township council was shot down because he didn't give 10 days' notice.

"The message I got was you're beating up a whole industry to get back at another," Zappitelli said.

"We're a victim of a protest that has nothing to do with us."

West Lincoln planning and building director Brian Treble said aldermen endorsed a staff recommendation in February asking staffers to let developers township council won't grant them its support. He said the township is concerned about the lack of local control over green projects.

West Lincoln Mayor Doug



Solar panel.

Joyner said the township believes the rules allow developers to change a project unilaterally after aldermen have given it their blessing.

"This is a process thing," he said. "This is process. This is the process not helping out our planning in West Lincoln yet again."

He said West Lincoln has

no issue with green energy beyond the province's handling of applications.

Treble said, "I don't think council has taken a position against solar. They've taken a position against the Green Energy Act."

Under new rules, a council endorsement can grant points towards a project's applica-

tion for a contract.

West Lincoln's situation is a case of the rules working as intended, said Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley. He said the province did not grant municipalities a veto but said it's unlikely a project could be approved without municipal support.

"The new program really

places a great deal of power and responsibility with the local municipality," he said. "This is what they were asking for."

"It's incumbent on the developers now to gain the approval of the local municipality for specific projects."

Treble said the vote came about after a zoning dispute involving a ground-mounted

solar project.

"We simply recommended not even participating," he said.

Zappitelli said not getting on the council agenda would cause him to miss an application deadline for his project. He said without the scoring points a municipal support resolution would grant, his application would not be considered.

"It's done. I informed the customer yesterday," he said.

Many municipalities in Ontario have passed blanket resolutions of support for green projects, Zappitelli said.

"This is the first time in four years of doing this that a council has said no."

Treble said Zappitelli asked to speak four days ahead of the meeting, but council's rules require 10 days' notice.

"His timing was off. It has nothing to do with the Green Energy Act."

He said Zappitelli is scheduled to argue his case at council's planning committee Nov. 11.

Zappitelli said his application is time-sensitive and council could have voted him onto the agenda.

Joyner said township council's meetings already run past midnight on occasions and the meeting bylaws must be respected.

"It's unfortunate, but he's how it goes," he said.

REPORTS

# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ INVESTIGATION

# Hand sanitizer linked to death in St. Catharines

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
QUI AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara Regional Police are warning the public after two people died from drinking hand sanitizer that contained methanol.

One of the people, a 45-year-old woman, died in St. Catharines.

Both deaths, the second of which occurred in northern Ontario, are being investigated by the Ontario's coroners office and are part of a Health Canada Alert.

The label on the product said the hand sanitizer contained ethanol but, in fact, it contained methanol, which is highly toxic and can cause blindness or death if swallowed, Dirk Huyer, Ontario's Interim Chief Coroner, said.

"Obviously, we don't know why these two ingested it," he said. "Ethanol is typically in alcoholic beverages that people consume. It is in wine and beer and vodka. Methanol is a different kind of alcohol. It's not one that the body can deal with. That's why it is so dangerous. It is in paint thinners and home like that."

Police report the 45-year-old female was unresponsive and transported to hospital with what doctors believed to be methanol poisoning. A few days later,

on June 24, 2012, she died. The labels on hand sanitizers advise external use only but Lisa Panetta, director of intensive programs at Community Addiction Services in St. Catharines, said the women's death speaks to the power of addiction.

In some cases, in their dependence on alcohol, they don't have the funds or the access for the consumable type of alcohol," Panetta said. "So they will resort to something like hand sanitizer. It's available. It's relatively cheap to purchase. Maybe they are just getting it from somewhere."

Health Canada said it is working with the manufacturer to test additional samples and to recall the mislabeled products.

"It's certainly sad when you see this happen," Panetta said. "You see so many people who do come through and make significant changes. That's the remarkable thing. With the right support and the right motivation, there is hope for people addicted to alcohol. People need to realize they are not alone and there is hope. Reach out to somebody or some program. There are lots of programs around. Any one of them can help."



HEALTH CANADA HANDOUT

Initial tests on bottles of hand sanitizer associated with the deaths of two Ontario women found methanol in Bodico Hand Sanitizer with the lot number B9002 and Bodico Hand Sanitizer with Aloe and Vitamin E and the lot number B9001.

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## ■ ourview

### Orwell rolling in his grave

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is "very concerned" about reports that Canada's electronic spy agency, the Communications Security Establishment of Canada, conducts industrial espionage in Brazil. He says he'll check to see if CSEC has been acting within the law, and presumably will get back to us on that "soon."

Cyber-spying is a must-have skill in the Internet age, but it's not cheap. With 1,800 employees, CSEC is moving into a new \$880 million state-of-the-art complex next year, whose super computers reportedly devour enough electricity to power every light in Ottawa.

Of course, all of this snooping capacity begs another question: Are these super computers also collecting information about Canadians?

Modern espionage is far removed from the spycraft of yore, as depicted in my 1960s childhood copy of *Spitting Stories for Boys*: steaming open envelopes, tapping phone lines with a screwdriver and copper cable, sneaking into offices with spy cameras to photograph documents onto microfilm, and so on. By the 1980s, Washington pigeons with tiny transmitters on their legs were being induced to roost on Soviet embassy window sills, in hopes of picking up secret conversations inside.

Pooling of cyber-espionage means CSEC has to satisfy the hunger of Canadian government departments for purloined data, but is also under pressure from foreign reciprocating agencies to supply its fair share of high-quality cyber-info, to justify Canada's continued membership in the club.

Most Canadians would support stronger oversight of the intelligence-gathering agencies that collect our data in quantities that grow exponentially every year. But whether there is the political will in Ottawa to bring this about — with its implications for our relations with large cyber-espionage agencies in the U.S. and U.K. — remains to be seen.

George Orwell must be rolling in his grave.

Charles Burton is a professor of political science at Brock University, and a former counsellor at Canada's embassy in Beijing. His first job was at CSEC.

# It's been thinking about the Gospel

**PASTOR MICHAEL MELES**  
Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, Dunnville & Port Colborne

Walking around town we see many wearing Remembrance Day poppies. They flash with the black and red of death and blood, reminding us of the sacrifice of many soldiers for country and freedom against tyranny and oppressors. As citizens of Canada we are comforted to know there are many in that vocation ready to fight for us right now, and we are thankful that many have in the past.

I have been teaching bible studies on the New Testament book of Romans the past few weeks and it, too, flashes with the black and red of remembrance. To understand Christianity rightly, especially when it comes to God's Law and Gospel, and rolling in particular, there is no better place to start than the first eight chapters of the book of Romans.

In Romans and throughout the Bible God brings to us remembrance the blackness of our hearts and the red blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God gives the Law to show us our sin, and gives the Gospel to show us His abundant grace and love in His sacrifice for the sins of all people. Why does He do this in His Law/Gospel way? Simply put, we need the Law to show us our way, we need the Gospel to show us the way, we need to know and believe the

complete depravity of our nature in order to know our need for someone to save us from sin and eternal death, and then to believe in the One who saves us.

If we don't believe what God says in His Law then we will tend to ignore our sins, pretend we don't have any, imagine that they're not all that bad, and then, worst of all, not believe we need a Saviour. If we don't have anything to be saved from, why would we need a Saviour? Everyone needs the Saviour because everyone is a sinner. We need to know that, believe that, and apply all of God's Law to ourselves when we read the Bible and hear it read or preached. Remember your black sins and His red sacrifice which covers every one of them.

When we believe that we are sinners in need of a Saviour, we begin to understand all that God says about goodness, righteousness and holiness. Jesus Himself said that absolutely no one is good except God, which not only means that everyone is a sinner, but also means that our salvation is what God does for us, not what we do for God. No efforts on our part can earn our salvation — no good works, no charitable deeds, no prayers or determined attitudes can justify us before God. We can't be made right with God by our choices and our good efforts, or as God puts it, no one is justified in His sight by obeying the Law. We fall short all the time. Salvation is 100% God's work, and that really is good news!

That's what it means that we are saved by God's grace through the faith which He gives as a gift. Because we can't follow the Law perfectly as He demands, He makes us right in His sight. He justifies us in His grace through His gift of faith in Jesus Christ who shed His blood as the final and perfect sacrifice for all sin. That is the Gospel. Thanks be to God that He does not leave us dead in our trespasses and sins! He brings to our remembrance the blackness of our sin and separation from Him, but then brings to our remembrance the red of the blood of Jesus' crucifixion. So the one who has been crushed by the Law and has faith in Jesus for forgiveness is not condemned but forgiven and raised up to new life in Him. That is the Gospel. God does His work by Law and Gospel, that is, by humbling and exalting, by condemning and forgiving, by killing the sin within us daily and raising us to new life in Christ.

Where, then, do good works come in? Our good decisions and good actions all flow from faith, and the Holy Spirit works them in and through us. Where is boasting? It is excluded because it is what God works in you to want to do His will and to actually go out and do it. To God alone be the glory. Thanks be to God that He brings to our remembrance the black and the red, the Law and the Gospel, our sin and His overabundant mercy and love in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## Reunions - insult contests with name tags

Never trust anyone over 30 for they are the ones who organize reunions.

For most of my life I have successfully avoided attending reunions - high school, baseball, college, and especially that weird family reunion in Kansas a couple years ago at which 33-year-old Richard Lorenc finally found his biological mother Vivian Wheeler, 62 who just happened to be ... and this would have been great for Richard when he was little Dick in short pants and looking for free tickets - Barnum & Bailey's Bearded Sideshow Lady. AWWWW!!!

Look, I'm not saying your lost lost Aunt Elizabeth once went by the name of Lizzie Borden but it could



happen ... and probably at a reunion.

At reunions age jokes come with weight jokes like we hair pieces accompany platform shoes. Familiar faces come with forgotten names and long, very long pauses.

"Oh sorry, no, I only asked if your daughter was pregnant because she has that wonderful glow about her."

Last month, against my better judgment I attended the Dain City Reunion to honour the longevity and

vibrance of the little village on the Welland Canal where I spent the first 17 years of my life. I only went to spend time with my childhood buddy Malcolm Hilton who, showing much better judgement than most, did not show up.

And it was fine, really. Old scores were not settled, nobody stroked the stage while I was speaking and a list of compliments were exchanged ... followed by "for you age, of course."

Everybody avoided the guy holding up a photo and started looking for "the one who got away" mainly because he was still with the one who didn't. His first fathers were discovered if you know what I mean.

But there's always that question you never want to

hear: "Do you remember how you humiliated me when we were going to the Dain City?" I didn't of course but I had a feeling I was about to hear all about it.

We were having a drink, one was my bodyguard Paul Stout who married Brenda Pol who was still staring at me. "Well, do you?"

One summer, as the story goes, I was playing on the Dain City Girls Softball Team. I was about 16 years old and the girls were 12 and 13. Brenda started naming the players — one pitcher Carolyn Rominger, Joanne Williams, Lynn Dorsey and Nancy Jowett, it all started coming back to me but not in a good way.

See THOMAS page 5

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ THOMAS

## Age jokes come with weight jokes

From page 4

I was hitting grounders to the infield which was anchored by Brenda at third base. Brenda was one of the best players on the team but today was not her day.

"The drill was called 'bring it home' in which I'd hit to an infielder and she would throw to home plate to stop a run from scoring. The first one I hit to Brenda went between her legs and into left field. The second grounder hit her in the shin and the third popped out of her glove. In a real game we'd be behind by three runs, all on errors by the third baseman. That's when I lost it. I walked out to third, relieved Brenda of her glove and told her to sit on the bench nearby. "Watch and learn," I said, as sternly as a fifteen-year-old with acne and clam diggers could.

"Penny!" I yelled. "Come!" No

not a girl but my super dog Penny, a medium-sized reddish mutt with buck teeth, the result of a collision with a motorcycle. In a flash, Penny was sitting beside the third base bag, panting and smiling and watching my every move.

"Stay!" I ordered returning to home plate where my catcher had her mask up on her head, squinting toward third base.

I hit a sharp grounder toward third that took three hops before it reached the base. Penny jumped straight up in the air, rising twice as high as he was tall and cleanly caught the ball in his mouth.

"Bring!" I yelled, and in front of ten disbelieving teenage girls, Penny articulated the routine. He brought it home.

"Now Brenda," I said, using the bat as a pointer, "when you can play that position as well as my

dog can, I'll give you your glove back." There was a fair bit of giggling and stifled laughter and not all of it was from the dog. I realize now it was the wrong thing to do and I understand how Brenda must have felt humiliated. I just didn't realize she'd be still bitter about it 50 years later.

Much more mature and wiser now, I'm not saying you shouldn't use household pets to show humans how to perform rudimentary tasks in life. I'm saying do not attend reunions where you can be confronted by these kinds of embarrassing stories. Reunions - no place for old men with a bit of a checkered past.

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## Region wins recycling awards

Niagara Region's waste diversion program has been recognized for its efforts in keeping garbage out of local landfills.

The Recycling Council of Ontario and the Municipal Waste Association gave the Region awards for the outreach campaigns to improve its recycling and waste-diversion programs.

The two organizations gave the region a gold medal for its 2012 outreach program that was focused on educating residents on what materials they can put into recycling bins. More than 5,000 also participated in the campaign's recycle and win contest, a regional press release says.

The region's pilot curbside battery collection program in Welland, Pelham and Port Colborne, which resulted in 2.5 metric tons of batteries being

diverted from landfills, was also given a gold medal.

The region and Enterra Environmental, the company contracted to do recycling in Niagara, won a silver medal for the Make Your Contribution at the Curb campaign. The program sees Enterra donate a dollar to the Niagara Health System Foundation for every tonne of recyclable material placed in grey and blue boxes in Niagara.

"Recognition from these two organizations is evidence that we're on the right track and should continue to support these important campaigns," Niagara Region CAO Harry Schlangé said.

**IN BRIEF**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## FUNDRAISER

# Council lends support to liquor licence request

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — City council may help trivia fans knock back a few drinks at an upcoming fundraiser.

Council unanimously approved a letter of support to assist a group of local residents in obtaining a liquor licence for a trivia night to benefit the family of a Port Colborne woman who is battling aggressive breast cancer.

Because the funds are going directly to a family and not a charitable organization, such as the Canadian Cancer Society, there's been some issue in obtaining a licence, said Gillian MacKenzie, who is co-organizing the event alongside Vikki Holder and Tammy Minor.

With council's support, which designates the event as municipally-significant, the likelihood of obtaining the licence becomes much higher, she said.

Though the letter was approved, it was not without debate.

While he thought the fundraiser was a "great thing," Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner had concerns about insurance and whether there was liability if the city associated itself with the event.

Mayor Vance Badaway said if there

are any mitigating factors required of the city, "then we do it."

"It's that simple," he said, suggesting councillors and city staff could volunteer at the trivia night to ensure things run smoothly.

Bodner recommended the group approach organizations such as the Port Colborne Lions to assist in the licensing process.

Unaware they would face hurdles in obtaining a licence, organizers scrambled to even ask the city for support and had no time to approach another group while still making the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario's application deadline, MacKenzie said.

Bodner said he would support the letter, but would like to see the city create a policy moving forward for other groups with this type of request.

"We could have 20 or 30 of these every year ... Do we always say yes?" he questioned.

A report will be brought forward by staff at an upcoming meeting outlining options for handling those requests in the future.

maryanne.firth@summedia.ca  
Twitter: @mirthtribune



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We are thrilled to support the United Way of South Niagara with their mandate of Healthy People, Strong Communities by contributing towards their 2013 fundraising goal. Frank Stewart, Sandy White and Mark Sherk of Whites' Insurance Brokers present Tamara Coleman-Lawrie and Rick Groom with a cheque for \$1,500.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## IN BRIEF

### Three arrested in drug raid

Three people were arrested after Niagara Regional Police received reports of a drug trafficking operation being conducted out of a Niagara Falls hotel.

The NRP's casino patrol unit seized \$3,300 in cocaine and \$350 in cash in the raid.

Victor Clayton, 47, of Niagara Falls, is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, one count of failing to comply with a probation order and one count of possession of proceeds.

Ashly Starnes, 30, of Niagara Falls, is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, and Robert Holowachuk, 31, is charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

Clayton is being held for a bail hearing while Starnes and Holowachuk were released on an undertaking with a promise to appear in court.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ HEADING NORTH FOR HOSPITAL CARE

# Confusion over services offered in Welland

**ALLAN BENNER**  
InPort News Staff

**WELLAND** — An increasing number of south Niagara residents are making the trip to St. Catharines for emergency medical care, rather than visiting their local hospital.

Welland surgeon Dr. Peter Willard is concerned the trend may be the result of confusion regarding services still offered in Welland, rather than curiosity about the new St. Catharines hospital that opened in March.

"There has been an 80% increase in patients from Welland and Pelham presenting at the new St. Catharines site since it opened up," said Willard, president of the Niagara South Medical Society.

Willard said he hopes the increase is merely a result of community interest in the new hospital and patients will eventually return to Welland's ER once they satisfy their curiosity.

"I think that's a healthy thing — checking things out to find out what it's like. If it's just a transient blip then that's great," he said.

But he fears it could instead be

the result of a misconception in the community, that people won't get the care they need in Welland.

"We think the issue is when there were all the concerns about the loss of services and long term impact, it was translated by the general public as the services are gone.

"But in fact, all the adult services with the exception of gynecological are still here. There's a lot of confusion about that," he said. "The fact that we're getting repeated questions from people who are coming to see us in our offices as specialists here makes me think that there is a significant level of confusion.

"It's not, 'I'm just checking out the new place,' it's, 'I don't know where my care can be provided.'"

Niagara Health System's vice-president of patient services Kim Stephens-Woods said the data — based on the postal codes of patients during the past six months — is still very preliminary and requires further analysis.

But in the meantime, she said it's important to ensure people in the Welland area know that the local

hospital remains a "vibrant, high functioning 24/7 emergency department with surgical services."

Although some services, such as

inpatient pediatrics, are no longer available in Welland's hospital, the statistics still show a 70% increase in local patients visiting the St.

Catharines ER after children have been taken out of the equation.

See HEALTH page 9



DAVE HANUSCHNIK STAFF PHOTO

Welland surgeon Dr. Peter Willard is concerned the trend of people heading to the new St. Catharines hospital may be the result of confusion regarding services still offered in Welland, rather than curiosity about the new facility that opened in March.

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# Doctor fears misconception

From page 8  
Despite the service consolidations, Stephens-Woods said "sick children, pregnant women, they can still come to the emergency department. The emergency guys will see them, and then a decision can be made about whether we can treat them, or if we need to transfer them."

She said the increase is in local

patients visiting the St. Catharines ER drops to about 70%, when children are taken out of the equation.

Willard said there's also a shorter wait times at the local emergency department, particularly for surgeries.

"If you have an emergency problem that's not going to kill you within six hours, you're going to be waiting and waiting and waiting,"

he said.

Despite the increasing ratio of south Niagara patients at the new emergency department, Stephens-Woods said the number of patients using the Welland emergency department has remained constant at about 2,000 per month. About 5,500 patients visit the St. Catharines emergency department each month.

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## Niagara Region Women's Health & Wellness Expo



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Stress, Weight Gain & Heart Disease: Reversing the Trends
- 11:30 am - Dr. Zoltan Rona - Reverse Inflammation Naturally
- 1:00 pm - Deslee Nielsen RD  
Food for Thought: Is Your Second Brain Optimally Nourished?
- 2:30 pm - Dr. Alvin Pettie - Hormonal Balance for Women

Plus there will be demos, **free samples**, health information and gifts from our many exhibitors - including local natural health practitioners and natural health suppliers. Don't miss it! This is the natural health event of the year. For more info or to get your **FREE** pass, visit **Rosemary's Natural Choices** or call us at 905-714-0586.

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## NOVEMBER 7

### ITALIAN EVENING

for residents and family at Woodlands of Sunset hosted by Regina Lodge No. 20 Order Sons of Italy, at 7 p.m. Refreshments served with lively Italian music.

## NOVEMBER 9

### COUNTRY KRAFT SHOW

at Eastdale Secondary School, 170 Wellington St., Welland, today and Nov. 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Many unique handcrafted items to choose from. Lunch available. Non-perishable items collected for Hope Centre.

### SOUPSON!

tickets go on sale at St. Kevin's church, before and after the 5 p.m. mass today and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. masses on Sunday, and weekends following. Soup & NI is Friday, Jan. 31, in the parish hall with seatings at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Participants are Niagara College's Food and Wine Institute. Blessed Trinity, Confederation, Eastdale, Lakeshore

Catholic and Notre Dame College School teams. Soups will be announced in early November. Tickets are \$10 a person. For more information on ticket availability, contact Min Gibbons, 905-734-8486.

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at Knox Church, 335 Fitch St., Welland, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baking, dell, jams, baby quilts, crafts and silent auction.

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at Rapelle Lodge, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Penny sale, draws, bake table, Christmas gift sale. Refreshments available.

## NOVEMBER 10

### OUR LADY OF HUNGARY

hosts its 85th church anniversary Luncheon 12:30 p.m. at the Hungarian Hall, Hellens Ave., Welland. Chicken soup, cabbage rolls, breaded chicken, Gypsy steak, roasted potatoes, salad, dessert, coffee/tea. For ticket reservations call Les Ujlakassy at 905-892-6407. Rudy Rags at 905-734-3880 or Frank Biro at 905-733-7336.

Continued on next page

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# ALONG THE LAKE SHORE

From last page

## NOVEMBER 12

### FAMILY TREES

Resolving the Riddle. Bring your research to Pelham Public Library and let a fresh pair of eyes get you back on track. Steve Fulton will lead members from the Niagara chapter of the Ontario Genealogical Society will be here to lead this interesting topic. Cost \$3; register ahead. Time 6:30 p.m.

### SOUP AND SANDWICH

luncheon at Central United Church, 12 Young St., Welland. Homemade soup, open-faced sandwiches (egg salad, ham, turkey, salmon), cookies and squares, tea or coffee. Cost \$10 a person. Plano background. Get tickets by calling 905-735-2333.

### PASTA NIGHT

at Casa Dante. Takeout dinner for \$8 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout. Eat in has been cancelled.

## NOVEMBER 13

### BOOK SIGNING

Join Joe Barkovich, former longtime reporter and city editor at The Tribune as he reads from a compilation of his columns, at Pelham Public Library. His new book, *From a Reporter's Notebook*, provides an interesting cross section of his many columns. Starts 7 p.m., cost \$3. Register ahead.

### ST. AUGUSTINE'S POINSETTIA

tea, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Croatian National Home, 6 Broadway Ave., Welland.

## NOVEMBER 16

### ATLAS TOLD DISCO

reunion party hosted by Friends of the Welland Museum at Casa Dante at 8 p.m. to one of the original D.J.s from the Atlas Hotel, John Chiochio. He will spin disco hits from '76 to '83. Tickets \$15 or \$20, at the door and may be bought at Welland Historical Museum. Prizes for best disco costume, best afro or mullet, best disco dancer and best couple dancers who can remember The Hustle.

### HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas House tour organized by Friends of Welland, Six homes and the Church beautifully decorated by local designers. Tickets \$20, available at 905-892-6433 (church) and participating designers: Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop, Cox Home Furniture, The Log Cabin Gift Store, Le Village, Décor Amour/Hometown Treasures, Brian C. Burgess & Associates, Interior Design, J&J Floral Expressions, and Floral Dimensions. Tours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ticket price includes refreshments at church.

### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEERS

open house at 1141 Maple St., Fenwick. Also on Nov. 17. Noon to 4:30 p.m. both days. Attention to Greater Niagara Railroad Engineers appreciated. See more at [www.gnrme.ca](http://www.gnrme.ca)

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE

at the Fonthill fire station, Hwy. 20 W., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with bake and craft table, 50/50 and gift basket

Church, 84 Ridgewood Ave., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baked goods and Christmas shop. Brunch tickets are \$6 at the door.

### PROGRESSIVE ECHRE

at Fonthill Lions hall, Hwy. 20, 7 p.m. Prizes, light food, cash bar, \$5.

## NOVEMBER 24

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

Night: A social justice activist of international renown is guest for

dessert, etc.) and their own place settings. Coffee, tea, and juice are provided. For more info, call 905-735-3562.

## NOVEMBER 28

### FRENCH WOMEN'S

entrepreneurship eight-week class starts. Learn to start your own business. Classes at Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Child

## DECEMBER 2

### NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS

Association meets at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, starts at 7 p.m.

## ONGOING

### THE HUNGARIAN HALL

at 361 Hellens Ave., Welland, is taking orders for cabbage rolls, Hungarian sausage and rice sausage (hunka). Pick up dates: Sausages on Nov. 1 at 2 p.m., cabbage rolls Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. For orders call before Oct. 28. Anna 905-735-0959, Klara 905-732-5865 or Eva 905-734-3593.

### WELLAND WALL OF ART

Crystal Beach artist David Drum is featured this month at the Welland Wall of Art at Welland Civic Square. Drum has also donated abstract artwork for a silent auction that will help raise funds to keep the gallery running. More information is available by calling 905-732-2840 or 905-735-2346.

### CHAIRFIRL DRAFTER

Pelham artists have painted oak children's chairs from when Pelham Public Library was built. Each chair is signed by the artist and comes with a gift basket. Bidding at the library runs Nov. 4 to Dec. 7.

### ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region support groups for care partners meet the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Welland Community Wellness Complex, and second Wednesday of the month, same time, at Foyer Richelieu. For information, call 905-687-3914.

### TAOIST TAI CHI

Classes Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Glendale Public School, 24 Farnham Ave., Welland. Visit or join a class at anytime. Call 905-535-7563 or visit [taoist.org/niagara](http://taoist.org/niagara) for other times and locations.

### CHRISTIANS IN BUSINESS

breakfast gatherings take place on the third Thursday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. at the Wainfleet Restaurant, 41985 Hwy. 3 (just south of Chambers Corners). Pastor Mark Redner from the Ottawa Valley will be ministering on Oct. 17. Prior to his call to full-time ministry in the Church, Mark was the owner of a successful business in Canadian Historical Fine Art, supplying major collections and museums with important historical and religious originals and others. A breakfast buffet will be served for \$10. RSVP Pastor Jeeva at Oct. 15 at 905-708-3533 or [jeevaas@gmail.com](mailto:jeevaas@gmail.com).

### FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

offered every day by Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to Jan. 31. An evening class runs Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 905-732-5337 to register.

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draws and light lunch. Hosted by Fonthill Lions. Twenty-two vendors.

## NOVEMBER 21

### MAKERS' MARKET

Christmas shopping event, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Guild Hall, 77 Charlotte St., Port Colborne. Quality items all handmade by local artisans. Many vendors.

## NOVEMBER 23

### BRUNCH AND BAZAAR

at the Port Colborne Baptist

this year's Distinguished Speaker Night at St. Kevin's church, Welland. Fr. Bill Ryan is a Jesuit priest and has a PhD in economics from Harvard University. He is special advisor to the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice based in Toronto. The theme of his address is: Living with Limits, Living Well. Hints for Neighbours on an Endangered Planet. In its 16th year, Distinguished Speaker Night is a fall tradition at St. Kevin's. It begins with 5 p.m. mass, followed by a potluck supper at 6:15 p.m. in the parish hall followed by the speaker's address at 7:15 p.m. People attending the potluck are asked to bring a dish of their choosing (salad, main course,

care available. Contact Lori for more information, at [webster@wellandheritagecouncil.org](http://webster@wellandheritagecouncil.org) or 905-732-5337 ext. 128.

## NOVEMBER 29

### BABY BOOMER MUSIC TRIVIA

Night at Fonthill location, 141 Hwy. 20 E. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and game starts at 7:30 p.m. Relive music of the '50s to early '70s. Cost is \$2 a person; register teams of eight, or individually, at [www.babyboomertrivia.ca](http://www.babyboomertrivia.ca), or call 905-338-8800. All proceeds to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

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# LOCAL NEWS



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## FOOD DRIVES: Port Colborne Lions marks 20 years, Welland holds its as well

### The need is great in Niagara

SARAH FERGUSON  
InPort News Staff

It's amazing to watch thousands of people come together to help those in need. "There's no other activity that unites the entire community of Welland, the way the food drive does," said organizer Monique Finley.

Finley was talking about the 21st city-wide Welland Food Drive held Saturday morning. About 500 people were stationed at Club Richelieu sorting and boxing donations, split between Open Arms Mission, Salvation Army, and Hope Centre.

Hundreds of other volunteers were out

collecting donations from across the community on 86 different routes.

The food drive, Finley said, is an important event for Welland's food banks because these organizations are often "limping by, holding their breath."

"As far as we can tell, it's the same every year. Food banks do what they can but often times they are running on low, or empty, especially at this time of the year. This is one of the biggest collections of the year and it serves their clients for months."

See CHARITY page 15



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### THE FLU VACCINE

It is time to start thinking about getting the flu vaccine. There will be hot shed clinics offered in the local area in the upcoming weeks that anyone can go to. Often these clinics are underutilized. There is still a great deal of misunderstanding about the flu vaccine and why it should be administered.

Each year an average of 20,000 people are hospitalized, and between 2,000 and 8,000 Canadians can die of influenza and its complications. These most likely to suffer complications of the flu are the most vulnerable: children under five and adults over 65. The seasonal influenza vaccine is safe and effective and can benefit people of all ages. The flu shot only provides protection up to 10 months; immunization is required each year. This year is the last project against the flu vaccine, and the vaccine may be given in winter months. Who should get vaccinated? The following is a list from the recommended guidelines.

- PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK OF INFLUENZA-RELATED COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS:**
- CARDIAC OR LUNG DISEASES SUCH AS ASTHMA
  - DIABETES MELLITUS AND OTHER METABOLIC DISEASES
  - CANCER, IMMUNODEFICIENCY, IMMUNOSUPPRESSION
  - RENAL DISEASE
  - ALZHEIMER
  - CHRONIC AND ADULTS WITH CONDITIONS TREATED FOR LONG PERIODS WITH ASPIRIN
  - ALL RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES OR OTHER CHRONIC CARE FACILITIES
  - SENIORS AGED 65 YEARS OR OLDER
  - PREGNANT WOMEN
  - CHILDREN AGED 6 MONTHS TO 2 MONTHS OF AGE
  - PERSONS WHO ARE IMMUNITY COMPROMISED
  - ADDITIONAL PEOPLES
- PEOPLE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING INFLUENZA TO THOSE AT HIGH RISK OF COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:**
- HEALTH CARE AND OTHER CARE PROVIDERS
  - HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF THOSE AT HIGH RISK AND TO INFANTS LESS THAN SIX MONTHS
  - MEMBERS OF A HOUSEHOLD SUFFERING A RECURRENT DURING FLU SEASON
  - WOMEN AT ALL STAGES OF PREGNANCY OR UNDASTANDING MOTHERS
  - THOSE PROVIDING REGULAR CARE TO CHILDREN 6-24 MONTHS
  - THOSE WHO PROVIDE SERVICES WITHIN CLOSED SETTINGS TO PERSONS AT HIGH RISK

#### OTHER:

- PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
- PEOPLE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANIMAL INFLUENZA INFECTED POLICITY
- HEALTHY PEOPLE AGED 65+ YEARS SHOULD CONSIDER GETTING THE VACCINE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT IN ONE OF THE ABOVE GROUPS

The list of those who should receive the vaccine is extensive. If you have had an anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine or one of its components you should not get the vaccine. Or, if you have an allergy to eggs you should discuss getting the vaccine with your health care practitioner. However, it has been shown that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated using the TIV vaccine.

Children 6 months to less than 6 years who have never received the seasonal flu vaccine require two doses, with a minimum of four weeks between doses.

Please remember that the flu shot doesn't cause the flu. If you have become sick after getting the shot in the past it was a coincidental infection of some other kind. The main side effect is pain and redness at the site of injection for a day or two afterward.

The flu shot is effective. Scientific studies show the effectiveness of the flu shot ranges from 70% to 80%.

Adults over 65 should also look to getting the pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococcal disease, a common complication of influenza, is a bacterial disease that can cause meningitis, bacteraemia (or bloodstream infection) and pneumonia. You can get this vaccine at the same time as the flu shot through your doctor.

To date you must get your flu shot through your doctor or the hot shed clinics in the area. At some point in the near future this vaccine may become available to be given by private pharmacist who will be trained to give injections.

If you have any questions about any of the above information please call or visit your local pharmacy.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ CHARITY



SARAH FERDINAND/STAFF PHOTO

From left, Logan Morden, 2, and his sister Paige Morden, 6, help collect donations at Christian Life Assembly for the Port Colborne Lions annual food drive.

## Drive fills food bank in Port Colborne

From page 14

The food drive is held annually the first Saturday in November, and it wouldn't be possible without the volunteers who collect and deliver the items to their respective food banks.

"Everyone who can contribute is recognized in the community and it is so appreciated," Finley said. "If we didn't have the support of Club Richelleu and the support of the community, the food drive wouldn't be successful."

Each year, Finley reminds everyone to mark the first Saturday of November on their calendar to remind themselves that it's food drive day in Welland.

"We have hundreds of residents who donate their time, people collecting donations on the road and hundreds more receiving assistance. When we talk about the community helping each other, it all comes full circle," Finley said.

The Welland food drive organizer encourage residents to contact their local food banks and assist with sorting the donations over the next few weeks.

"Once they donations arrive, the food banks will be sorting everything and will need help," she said.

In the lakeside city, the Port Colborne Lions Food Drive was in full swing Saturday morning at Christian Life Assembly Church.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the food drive, Lions Club president Jason Hockley said.

"We send volunteers door-to-door collecting food and donations. All of it goes to support Port Cares (Reach Out Food Centre)," he said.

Close to 400 volunteers were sorting and collecting donations for the food drive which kicked off at 9 a.m. Last year, the event raised about 17 tons of food and \$4,000 in donations.

Hockley hopes the food drive will raise as much as possible because Port Cares' food bank is in great need.

"The food bank's levels are running low and they need everything," he said.

"I think the need is great, especially in Niagara. I think everyone knows somebody affected by a job loss."

## Notice of the FirstOntario Credit Union 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of FirstOntario Credit Union Limited will be held:

**Date & Time:** December 4th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.  
(registration begins at 6:15 p.m.)

**Place:** White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa

**Address:** 253 Taylor Road S54, Niagara-on-the-lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0

### The purpose of this meeting:

#### 1. To receive the:

- Report of the Board of Directors
- Auditors' Report
- Report of the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2013
- Report of the Loan Officer
- Report of the Audit Committee

#### 2. To appoint Auditors.

#### 3. To receive a Report on the Election of Directors.

#### 4. To transact any other business of an Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be conducted in accordance with and respect of the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act and follow Robert's Rules of Order.

**Please be advised that this meeting will be open only to Members in good standing as of Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** Members will be required to show their FirstOntario debit card and/or other piece of identification for registration purposes.

### Attention Unincorporated Associations, Partnerships and

**Corporations:** You are asked to submit a Proxy to your branch by 2:00 p.m., on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, the day prior to the meeting, in order for signing authorities to be verified.

### Door prizes and refreshments will be available.

Copies of the 2013 Financial Reports will be available to Members after November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 in all FirstOntario branches, on our website at [FirstOntario.com](http://FirstOntario.com) and at the Annual General Meeting.

For further details, please visit our website at [FirstOntario.com](http://FirstOntario.com).

Ron Fleet  
Corporate Secretary

**FirstOntario**  
CREDIT UNION

# LOCAL NEWS

■ **TRAGEDY:** Victim identified as Port Colborne's Andrea Stewart

## Fallen tree victim fondly remembered

**SARAH FERGUSON**  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Andrea Stewart will be remembered by those that knew her best as kind, creative and fun.

"She loved reading, she loved jewelry and she loved watching her CSIs and Criminal Minds," long-time friend Kaye Wagner-Dekoning said.

Her loved ones were left "stone shocked" when Stewart, 56, was killed Friday morning when a large tree fell on the car she was driving on Fielden Ave., Wagner-Dekoning said.

Environment Canada reported Port Colborne recorded the strongest wind gusts in the province Fri-

day with gusts of up to 106 km/h. Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services responded to the call for a tree that fell on the car Stewart was driving shortly after 11 a.m. Stewart was pronounced dead at the scene.

Family and friends were in left in disbelief about the tragic accident.

"Andrea had lived in Port Colborne a long time. She lived right next door to me," Wagner-Dekoning said of Stewart.

Stewart, originally from the Port Erie area, has lived in Port Colborne for "many years" and became part of a close-knit group of neighbours on Omer Ave.

Although Stewart never

married and didn't have children, Wagner-Dekoning said her friend cherished her family and would spend spent as much time with them as she could. Wagner-Dekoning said Stewart's family lived out of town.

"She has a brother, two sisters and two nieces she loved very much," she said.

"We became friends and we often hung out together," Wagner-Dekoning added.

She described Stewart as someone who preferred spending time with several close friends and family.

"She always liked to have fun and she usually stayed in our little circle of friends."

"Andrea had always spent many afternoons sitting on

my front porch. My front porch is where we would congregate and chat," Wagner-Dekoning said.

She said Stewart often kept to herself, not wanting to impose on other people. But, when Wagner-Dekoning had a chance, she would knock on Stewart's door to say hello and share conversations and meals.

"I always shared with her when I was cooking. I would always bring her some of what I was making and I'd say 'I've got an extra plate of this.'"

Stewart loved living in Port Colborne because of her neighbours living nearby.

"She didn't venture too far outside of our circle. She felt comfortable with us. She'd

**SUPPLIED PHOTO**

Andrea Stewart was killed Friday morning after a tree struck her car on Fielden Ave.

visit her family quite a bit, but she was content to stay home."

At Frank's Home Building Centre in Port Colborne, where Stewart had worked for 26 years, owner Frank Danch was left in shock.

"Andrea worked as a bookkeeper for me for 15 years, and even longer for my father before that," said Danch, who learned of Stewart's death Friday afternoon.

"She's the kind of person who wouldn't hurt a fly," he said.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: s.ferguson23



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC BOOST:** Artists react to new \$45-million Ontario Music Fund

## Funding hits the right note

**JOHN LAW**  
QMI Agency Niagara

The Ontario government announced \$45 million in funding for the province's music industry this week, but how much will the artists see?

Likely very little, says Niagara singer Adam Buller, who goes by the stage name Thunderclap.

"It's slightly unfortunate that the money is not being directly allocated to the artists," he says. "But that money, in the end, will trickle down to the artists in different career opportunities."

Announced on Monday, the Ontario Music Fund will allow various facets of the industry to apply for funding in four separate categories.

■ Music Company Development is available for music businesses, helping them expand and even attract international artists to record in Ontario.

■ Music Industry Development will help strengthen and enhance the industry in Ontario through new projects and approaches.

■ Music Futures will help entrepreneurs and startup record labels by providing funds to offset their recording,

touring and skills development.

■ Live Music will pump more funds into Ontario's concert scene, increasing the presence of Canadian artists at festivals and signature events. It will also provide opportunities for local acts to perform abroad.

Bottom line, says Buller: It's money going directly into the Ontario music industry.

"So how can it be bad, right? It wasn't allocated to the military."

Veteran Niagara singer Serena Pryne, who recently returned from a U.K. tour with her band The Mandevilles, agrees it will be tough for artists to get a quick fix from the funding. Rather, it's set up to strengthen the industry, and allow successful ventures to do what they already do, only better. The Music Company Development category, for example, is only open to applicants with annual revenues of more than \$100,000.

"I think it's awesome, and I'm happy for the people who will get to use this," she says.

"If they can even get it. A lot of times, the application forms are ridiculous."

"Even right now, with FACTOR grants and stuff, it's very difficult as an

indie artist to get it. You have to have some kind of connection."

Michael Saracino, co-owner of Niagara Falls recording studio Winding Path Media, hopes the money goes back into the music and not into pockets.

"I don't see a detriment," he says. "If these are companies that will actually do something for the indie music scene, that's a benefit."

Rick Rose, owner of Niagara Falls record label Tangerine Music Group, sees all positives down the road.

"This will help, enhance and bring more confidence to Canadian recording artists and the amazing natural prolific talent in our great city of Niagara Falls."

The application process for Music



JOHN LAW/NAGARA FALLS REVIEW

Michael Saracino of Winding Path Media recording studio in Niagara Falls hopes new provincial funding for Ontario's music scene will trickle down to the indie artists who need it.

Company Development and Music Industry Development launched Oct. 28. The Music Futures and Live Music categories open Nov. 7.

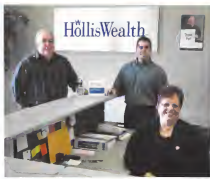
Applications can be made at the

Ontario Music Fund website: [www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca). Funding recipients will be announced in winter 2014.

[john.law@sunmedia.ca](mailto:john.law@sunmedia.ca)

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## ■ BROCK DRAMA

### Whole new look for Twelfth Night

'Twelfth Night gets a 21st century update, courtesy of the Department of Dramatic Arts at Brock University.

'Twelfth Night' (or What You Will) is set in the magical, fictitious Kingdom of Illyria, a modern world where boys are boys and girls are girls, and subterranean passions blow apart rigid conventions. To meet Shakespeare's

demand that Illyria be a land where music is "the food of love," enter the fool musician, Feste, as the leader of a country blues band.

The production is a directional collaboration between dramatic arts faculty Cillian Raby and Danielle Wilson, assisted by Keavy Lynch.

'Twelfth Night' (or What You Will) runs Nov. 7 to 9,

7:30 p.m., and Nov. 8 at 11:30 a.m., at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre at Brock University. Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, \$12 for groups and \$5 for eyeGo high school. Call 905-688-6560, ext. 3257 or visit [www.Arts.brocku.ca](http://www.Arts.brocku.ca). For more information about the production visit [www.brocku.ca/dramatics](http://www.brocku.ca/dramatics)

## ■ COP SHOP

### First look at new headquarters

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI

QMI Agency niagara

Niagara Regional Police have revealed the first public glimpse of what their new Niagara Falls digs will look like.

The police service unveiled concept art of their new headquarters and 2 District building last week to regional council's corporate services committee. The public will get a glimpse at a public meeting coming in November of the Niagara Falls side of the \$83-million project.

"I hope the public sees that it's a welcome building — it's being built for the public — but it's not a grandiose building, either," said NRP Insp. Richard Frayne, who is heavily involved with the project.

"It's going to be a very, very functional building. That's what we're hoping

to convey."

The glimpse of the headquarters comes as police plan a groundbreaking ceremony for the new building.

Police and elected officials will gather for the Nov. 18 ceremony at the new building's 5698 Valley Way address at 2 p.m. An open house will follow at 6:30 p.m. at the Niagara Falls library on Victoria Ave., running until 9 p.m., Frayne said.

The concept photos depicts a long, solid grey structure at Valley Way and Portage Rd., with a broad glass facade and a bold NRP coat of arms greeting visitors.

Frayne said the building — listed at 19,280 square metres in the report to the Regional committee — will provide modern functionality for the police force.

He said the current

headquarters at 110 James St. is a high-rise and less functional as a police building, in part because it lacks cells.

"Currently our headquarters is kind of spread out across a number of facilities," he said.

Niagara Regional Police Services Board chairman Henry D'Angela said the police service loses efficiency right now with its headquarters in a separate building from the St. Catharines detachment at 68 Church St.

"We're hoping that it meets the (construction) timetables that are set out in the schedule," he said.

Frayne figured police could begin moving into their new digs by fall 2015.

jeff.bolichowski@sunmedia.ca  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## IN BRIEF

### Regional Council

Niagara regional council meetings will end early enough to allow sleepy councillors to hit their pillows before midnight from now on.

Councillors agreed to a firmer curfew on their meetings. They'll roll until 10:30 p.m. on council

night, and they can push that out no later than 11 p.m. It's a change from their current 11 p.m. curfew, which they can extend without limit. That has left red-eyed councillors legislating late, at times casting votes after 1 a.m. the next day.

"I think the timeliness and length of our meetings must reflect what we intend to do," said Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Dave Eke, who put forward the motion. He said council must be more efficient to show it's open for business.

The 11-8 vote left councillors split on how the new rules could work.

"If you don't get your business done, how can you say we're open for business?" asked Thorold Councillor Henry D'Angela. He feared business council can't get to would end up pushed to another meeting a few days later.

"I don't see this as a solution to the problem. I just see this moving it forward to another date," he said.

In the end, councillors Mark Bylisma, Brian McMullan, George Marshall, Ted Luciani, Debbie Zimmerman, Selina Volpatti, Dave Augustyn, Dan Fortier, Andy Petrowski and Barry Sharpe sided with Eke to back the new deadline.

D'Angela was joined in opposition by councillors Bruce Timmins, Bob Bentley, Brian Heit, Brian Baty, Barbara Greenwood, Vance Badawey and David Barrick.

### NO FUSS, NO MUSS, MORE BUS

A transit commission looks to be the future for inter-municipal transit in Niagara.

The Region ratified last month's committee decision to facilitate putting together a transit commission with the lower-tier municipalities. It would be up to that commission to decide how inter-municipal buses in Niagara will roll. That's

despite a narrow 11-10 split decision at the committee level.

"Our intention was not to go with a triple majority. That was clear," said Grimsby Councillor Debbie Zimmerman. The Region would need that vote — a majority of its own councillors, plus a majority of local councils representing a majority of voters — to run buses on its own.

But some councillors figured the Region should just swing for a triple majority and decide the question one way or another.

"We'd better address this elephant in the room we keep going around time and time again," argued Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Dave Eke.

The vote will see the existing Niagara Region Transit system run until September 2014 or until the commission lines up its successor.



MIKE DINATTI/CPA AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara Region Transit bus stop sign in front of the bus terminal on Erie Avenue in Niagara Falls, Jan. 31, 2012.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ DEER HUNT

# Region joins Short Hills hunt fight

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region has waded into the fight against an aboriginal deer hunt at Short Hills Provincial Park.

Council agreed Thursday night to pen a letter to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, appealing to them to put a halt to the planned hunt. The deer harvest, limited to aboriginal hunters under the terms of a treaty, is pencilled in for later in November.

"The residents of Niagara do not support this activity and it is in direct conflict with our community's values," said Sheila Kreskorian, a co-founder of the Short Hills Wildlife Alliance.

Councillors backed the bid from Kreskorian and co-founder Robin Zavitz to enlist the Region against the hunt. They followed in the footsteps of St. Catharines city council

in sending on a letter.

St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms also sought more information on how council could apply a prior court ruling which the alliance argued could give the province authority to trump the hunt on public safety grounds.

Zavitz argued the ministry cannot ensure the park will be safe because too many houses surround it. She expressed fears hunters could end up in people's yards.

She said the boundaries between the park and homes are too vague.

"Unless I was standing on a surveyor's stake, I would not be able to recognize where the park ends and my property begins," she said.

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